of a question in the Council Office and its reception by the respective departmental officers for answering?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—It has not been possible to collect the information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know why it was not possible to collect the information?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Because it is a very laborious process to furnish an answer to this question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will not the answer show that the delay was caused in the Council office?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—No. I may assure the Member that there has been absolutely no delay in this office.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—If the answer was furnished to this question would not that answer have shown the delay, if any, that has been caused in the Council office so far as the sending of the question to the Huzur office is concerned?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I said there was no delay here. How could the answer show something else?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—That depends upon the answer.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The answer is always based upon facts. If the question had been furnished, it would have shown there was no delay at all in my office.

Instances not giving information, etc.

466. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of instances wherein they refused to give information on the ground that no public good was, or sufficient and proportional public good was not, served by it, ever since the Cochin Legislative Council was formed?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government do not think it necessary to collect the information asked for as it will serve no purpose commensurate with the labour involved.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know the grounds on which the Government gave this answer?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The grounds are there. No further ground has to be adduced.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it not in the purview of the intention of this question that so far as questions in which Government wanted to shelve any criticism on them....

President.—That is not a supplementary question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Government wanted to shelve any unpleasantness that may be included in this, was not that point in the mind of the questioner when the question was put?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government never did that. Any number of questions are answered here and from the

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number of supplementary questions it is clear that Government never tried to prevaricate on answers.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—It is not for the mere number. It was only for the numerical amout of the questions we ask. Where was the difficulty about that? Look at the volume of the work to be done.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is it not possible to collect this information by the Members themselves from the printed proceedings?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—It is to minimise the labours of the Members that they are here.

467. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of instances in which they could not give information to the House but which involved no collection of statistics, ever since the Cochin Legislative Council began?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government do not think it necessary to collect the information asked for as it will serve no purpose commensurate with the labour involved.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Can I know whether the Government have any objection for giving such informations on such simple questions? This can be found from the council proceedings. What is the difficulty of the Government in merely counting the number?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The difficulty is the amount of work that has to be done. It is not a slight amount of work. The question is about the total number of instances, etc. That means a page to page verification of the entire proceedings of the last eight years' volumes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—To show what?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—To supply an answer to this question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The question was intended to show that Government were not giving information to Hon'ble Members of this House on important matters pertaining to their respective actions. How did the Government come to the finding that it won't serve any public purpose.

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